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Page 3 (Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. §1.312(a) - November 5, 1993)

Pl wherein A comprises at least three carbon atoms and represents at least one component of a signalling moiety capable of producing a detectable signal;

Pl wherein B and A are covalently attached directly or indirectly through a linkage group, said linkage group not interfering substantially with the characteristic ability of said compound to hybridize with said nucleic acid or of A to be detected;

Pl wherein if B is 7-deazapurine, A is attached to the 7-position thereof, and if B is pyrimidine, A is attached to the 5-position thereof;

Pl wherein m, n and p are integers, provided that m and p are not simultaneously 0 and provided further n is never 0; and

Pl 13 wherein z represents H- or HO-; and

L (b) detecting said compound or compounds so as to detect said nucleic acid.

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